

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MORE SAG REACTION

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS TODAY, JULY 14, FEATURED ARTICLES ON LIKELY EARLY UN ACTION ON WESTERN PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA AND ON THE BACKGROUND OF SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE. THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN FEATURED IN NEWS OR EDITORIAL TREATMENT. THE PRESS HAS NEVERLESS REPORTED DR. OWENS STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN FEATURED IN NEWS OR EDITORIAL TREATMENT. THE PRESS HAS NEVERLESS REPORTED DR. OWEN'S STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY'S OWNERSHIP WOULD BE HELD OVER UNTIL AFTER SWA INDEPENDENCE WHEN THE WESTERN POWERS WOULD SUPPORT ITS INCORPORATION INTO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORY. A REPORT FROM NEW YORK INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SEPARATE MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL NEXT MONTH. TO TACKLE THE WALVIS BAY QUESTION AND THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WEST WILL BACK A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ITS INTERGRATION WITHIN THE FUTURE NAMIBIA. THE REPORT OBSERVED THAT THIS COMPROMISE HANDLING OF THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE WAS WORKED OUT TO CLINCH SWAPO'S SUPPORT FOR THE

PEACE PACKAGE AND THAT IT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS. THE SABC RADIO COMMENTARY THIS MORNING INCLUDED AMONG THE "CONDITIONS" UNDER WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAD ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL THE POINT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WAS AN ISSUE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE FUTURE BY SOUTH AFRICA AND INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

2. THE PRESS QUOTES PRIME MINISTER BOTHA AS DESCRIBING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT AS A DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD HERALD A NEW ERA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOTHA CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WITH SINCERITY. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HE SAID, ACCEPTED THAT NO QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY NATURE - DIRECT OR BY IMPLICATION - WOULD BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSALS.

3. ASKED HOW THE MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY WERE AFFECTED, BOTHA REPORTEDLY REPLIED "THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY IN NO WAY BECOMES INVOLVED. NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TROOPS IS FORESEEN UNLESS AND UNTIL THE SITUATION OF COMPLETE PEACE HAS COME ABOUT AND IS MAINTAINED. DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS RESPONSIBLE THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY, THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, ORDER AND SECURITY AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR NORMAL DUTIES."

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4. IN CAPE TOWN, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY, COLIN EGLIN, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "PROVIDED NO NEW TERMS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL OF ALL - INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PEACE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. NEWSPAPERS IN WINDHOEK HAVE REPORTEDLY CARRIED HEADLINES WELCOMING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT. BISHOP JAMES KAULUMA, ANGLICAN BISHOP, WHO THIS WEEK RELEASED A STATEMENT BY ANGLICAN CLERGYMEN REJECTING THE WESTERN PROPOSALS (PRETORIA 3941) REPORTEDLY SAID "I HOPE SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF IT AND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED, BUT IT IS PREMATURE FOR ME TO COMMENT AT THIS STAGE." CATHOLIC BISHOP KOPPMAN REPORTEDLY WELCOMED SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE AND CALLED ON PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER CALMLY AND WITH TOLERANCE SO THAT A PEACEFUL, JUST AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT REPORTEDLY SAID SWAPO'S MOVE WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION THAT WOULD START THE BALL ROLLING TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE.

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